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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /069 W
----------087879 230702Z /11
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FM USINT HAVANA
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1450

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0748

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PINR CU
SUBJECT: NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO UN

1. I PAID COURTESY CALL MARCH 20 ON RAUL ROA DOURI, NEWLY DESIG-
NATED CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO UN. ROA, WHO IS SON OF FORMER CUBAN
FOREIGN MINISTER, WILL DEPART FOR NEW YORK IN EARLY APRIL TO
ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES.

2. ROA PROJECTED AN AIR OF MODERATION IN TOUR D'HORIZON COVERING
SUCH TOPICS AS AFRICA, PUERTO RICO, NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND
HUMAN RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH HE OF COURSE ADDUCED IN EACH CASE THE
STANDARD CUBAN LINE. ROA SEEMED TO AGREE FULLY WITH MY COMMENT
THAT INCREASED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR DELEGATIONS IN
NEW YORK HAD BEEN USEFUL AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. (HE SPOKE
FAVORABLY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES IN
SEVERAL AREAS, AND OF YOUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS TO A NEW US IMAGE.)

3. ON THE THEORY THAT ANY CHANGE IN CUBAN AMBASSADORS AT UN
(AFTER ALARCON) CAN ONLY BE FOR THE BETTER, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT
MUCH, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO SEE ROA AT AN EARLY OPPOR-
TUNITY TO EXPLORE ANY OPENINGS FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AT
UN.
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4. ROA LIVED IN NEW YORK FOR SEVERAL YEARS DURING WORLD WAR II
WHILE HIS FATHER (A RADICAL, BUT NOT THEN COMMUNIST LAW PROFESSOR)
WAS A GUGGENHEIM SCHOLAR. THE YOUNGER ROA, KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS
AS "RAULITO", IS ONE OF THE FEW GRADUATES OF THE ELITE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL KNOWN AS RUSTON ACADEMY WHO REMAINED
IN CUBA AFTER THE REVOLUTION. FROM 1958 TO 1960 HE ATTENDED

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDYING SOCIAL PHYCHOLOGY. HIS UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING WAS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REVOLUTION HE ATTENDED SESSIONS OF THE UN SECOND COMMITTEE AS PART OF CUBAN DELEGATION.

5. IN PAST TWO YEARS, ROA HAS SERVED AS ONE OF FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS TO VICE PRESIDENT AND MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, WHO IS HIMSELF THE PRINCIPAL FORIEGN AFFAIRS ADVISER TO CASTRO. PRIOR TO THAT ROA WAS SECRETARY OF OFFICE CHARGED WITH COORDINATING CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES OF COMECON. HIS NEW POST MARKS HIS APPARENTLY COMPLETE REHABILI-TATION FROM AN EARLIER SOJOURN IN THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS AS A RESULT, SO THE STORY GOES, OF UNDECOROUS HIGH LIVING AND UNWISE COCKTAIL PARTY GIBES WHICH DISPLEASED CASTRO.

6. ROA IS TRAVELING TO NEW YORK WITH HIS WIFE, A YOUNG WOMAN OF SERIOUS DEMEANOR WHO HAS BEEN A WRITER FOR THE CUBAN JOURNAL BOHEMIA. JUDGING FROM THEIR INITIAL VISA APPLICATIONS, THE ROAS ARE APPARENTLY LEAVING THEIR CHILD BEHIND IN CUBA, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.
LANE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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